

97. (new) The isolated protein of claim 89 wherein said protein is at least 90% pure.

98. (new) The isolated protein of claim 87 wherein said protein or complex is at least 99% pure.

99. (new) The isolated protein of claim 89 wherein said protein is at least 99% pure.--

REMARKS

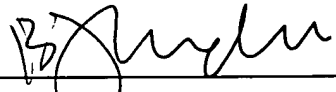
The specification and claims have been amended above as provided in the parent application Serial No. 09/928,017. The attached formal drawings are the same as those submitted in the parent application. No new matter has been added. The attached paper copy of the Sequence Listing is the same as that filed in the parent application. A separate Request regarding the computer readable copy of the Sequence Listing is attached.

An early and favorable Action on the merits in the above-identified application is requested.

Maertens et al  
Continuation of Serial No. 08/928,017

Respectfully submitted,

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**MARKED-UP SPECIFICATION**

Page 36, delete the paragraph spanning lines 23-29, and insert the following therefor:

--Figure 21:                Figures 21A-L provide nucleic acid sequences of the present invention. The nucleic acid sequences encoding an E1 or E2 protein according to the present invention may be translated (SEQ ID NO 3 to 13, 21-31, 35 and 41-49 are translated in a reading frame starting from residue number 1, SEQ ID NO 37-39 are translated in a reading frame starting from residue number 2), into the amino acid sequences of the respective E1 or E2 proteins as shown in the sequence listing.--

Page 38, delete the paragraph spanning lines 31-34, and insert the following therefor:

--Figures 35A-1 to 35A-8:                Antibody levels to the different HCV antigens (Core 1, Core 2, E2HCVR, NS3) for NR and LTR followed during treatment and over a period of 6 to 12 months after treatment determined by means of the LIAscan method. The average values are indicated by the curves with the open squares.--

Page 39, delete the paragraph spanning lines 1-4, and insert the following therefor:

--Figures 35B-1 to 35B-8:           Antibody levels to the different HCV antigens (NS4, NS5, E1 and E2) for NR and LTR followed during treatment and over a period of 6 to 12 months after treatment determined by means of the LIAscan method. The average values are indicated by the curve with the open squares.--

Page 39, delete the paragraph spanning lines 6 and 7, and insert the following therefor:

--Figures 36A and 36 B:           Average E1 antibody (E1Ab) and E2 antibody (E2Ab) levels in the LTR and NR groups.—

Page 39, delete the paragraph spanning lines 8 and 9, and insert the following therefor:

--Figures 37A-D:           Averages E1 antibody (E1Ab) levels for non-responders (NR) and long term responders (LTR) for type 1b and type 3a.—